

15
AN HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

OF THE

Destruction

OF THE

French Fleet,

By Admiral Sir H. NELSON.

With a List of the

Killed, Wounded, Number of
Ships taken, burnt, & sunk.



Price—ONE PENNY.

10



Historical Narrative

OF THE

Total DESTRUCTION of the FRENCH FLEET.

WE feel the most heart-felt satisfaction in having in our power to announce to the public the following official Historical Narrative of the complete annihilation of the French naval armament in the Mediterranean, under the command of Admiral Bruges, on the coast of Egypt.

A victory more glorious and more compleat is not recorded in the annals of our Navy; nor has any of our naval triumphs been so likely to produce a general good influence throughout Europe. In this point of view, we consider Admiral Nelson's victory as more important than the capture or destruction of so many ships. The Mediterranean is henceforth placed under the direction of

the British flag. The Russian Squadron has by this time passed the Dardenelles to co-operate with our fleet in asserting the liberty of that sea. Nothing can prevent the Turkish Government from embarking troops in any part of the Ottoman dominions, to march against Buonaparte, who has advanced into an hostile country, and is now entirely cut off from France, from whence he cannot receive the least succour.

In this fleet Buonaparte, the French General, (by some stiled the Modern Alexander, the Conqueror of Italy, &c.) and a large body of troops sailed from France, on his Quixotte expedition to Egypt; which the French Government entertained so high an opinion of, that on announcing the sailing of this fleet, declared it was an expedition that would astonish the world!

We sincerely wish that all their expeditions may meet a similar fate, which no doubt may astonish the world, though not in the manner they meant or wished.

This fleet, unfortunately had so far accomplished its purpose as to have conveyed the troops in safety to Alexandria, where they were disembarked—never more to see their native country.

This agreeable and important information, which had so long before been given in the French papers, was not received with much credit until Monday last, when the following Note was officially sent to the City:

“ By a letter received from Vienna, dated the 15th of September, it appears that a dispatch had been received there on that day from Prince Bel-

monte, at Trieste by the Neapolitan Charge des Affaires, stating, that his Majesty's cutter La Mutine had arrived at Naples on the 3d of the same month from Admiral Nelson's fleet, the Captain of which stated, that the French fleet had been attacked off Rosetta, and that the whole of them had been taken or destroyed, except two sail of the line, which had escaped; and that Buonaparte's dispatches had been taken on board one of the captive ships."

As no doubt now remained of our being victorious, though the particulars was not then known, the liveliest joy was impressed on every countenance. At St. Martin's Church the flag was hoisted, and the bells were about to ring, when they got orders to desist till further information was obtained.

Yesterday (Tuesday) about a quarter past eleven o'clock, Captain Capel, who was first Lieutenant to Admiral Nelson, but since promoted to the rank of Master and Commander, reached the Admiralty in a post chaise and four from Romford, having passed from Naples to the Continent in the Mutine cutter, and travelled over land with the welcome intelligence with which he was intrusted by Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson.

The guns of the Park and Tower were fired, about one o'clock; and in the forenoon the following note was sent to the Lord Mayor:

ADMIRALTY, 2d October, 1798.

"MY LORD,

"I have great satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that the Honourable Captain Capel is,

this moment, arrived with dispatches from Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, giving an account of his having attacked the French squadron under Admiral Bruys, near Rosetta, and of his having had the good fortune to obtain a complete victory over the enemy, without the loss of any one of his Majesty's ships. I most sincerely congratulate your Lordship on this important occasion, and have the honour to be, with great regard,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

SPENCER."

To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

The following are the particulars of this most splendid naval victory, which was announced to the anxious public, in the evening, by *a Gazette Extraordinary*.

On the first of August, the British fleet, consisting of thirteen sail of the line, none carrying more than seventy-four guns; one fifty-gun ship, and one frigate; came in sight of the French squadron near Rosetta, consisting also of thirteen sail of the line, many of them very large ships, and four frigates.

The French were drawn up in a strong line of battle at the mouth of the Nile, with intent to defend the entrance of the Bay of Shoals; flanked by numerous gun-boats, four frigates, and a battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van, but nothing could withstand the ardour and judgment with which the British attacked them.

After the engagement, the island was taken possession of and all mortars, &c. brought away.

The Culloden got aground before the action, and consequently had no share in it, notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of the gallant Captain Trowbridge and his Officers. Afterwards, by the assistance of other ships she was got off.

List of Ships Taken, Burnt, and Sunk.

TAKEN—Le Guerrier, Le Conquerant, Le Spartiate, L'Aquilon, Le Souverain Peuple, Le Mercure, and L'Heroux, of 74 guns and 700 men each; La Franklin, and Le Tonant, of 80 guns and 800 men each; and La Fortune of 18 guns and 70 men.

BURNT—L'Orient, of 120 guns and 1010 men; Le Timoleon, of 74 guns and 700 men; and L'Artemise of 36 guns and 250 men.

SUNK—Le Sérieuse, of 36 guns and 250 men dismasted and sunk.

ESCAPED—Le Guillaume Tell, of 80 guns and 800 men; Le Genereux, of 74 guns and 700 men; Le Diane, of 48, and Le Justice of 44 guns and 300 men each.

List of Killed and Wounded:

Theseus.—5 seamen, killed; 1 officer, 24 seaman, 5 marines, wounded.—Total 35.

Alexander.—1 officer, 13 seamen, killed; 5 officers, 48 seamen, 5 marines, wounded.—Total 72.

Vanguard.—3 officers, 20 seaman, 7 marines, killed; 7 officers, 60 seaman, 8 marines, wounded.—Total 105.

Minotaur.—2 officers, 18 seamen, 3 marines, killed; 4 officers, 54 seaman, 6 marines, wounded.—Total 87.

Swiftsure.—7 seamen, killed; 1 officer, 19 seamen, 2 marines, wounded.—Total 23.

Audacious.—1 seamen, killed; 2 officers, 31 seamen, 2 marines, wounded.—Total 36.

Defence.—3 seaman, 1 marine, killed; 9 seamen, 2 marines, wounded.—Total 15.

Zealous.—1 seaman, killed; 7 seamen, wounded.—Total 8.

Orion.—1 officer, 11 seamen, 1 marine, killed; 5 officers, 18 seamen, 6 marines, wounded.—Total 42.

Goliath.—2 officers, 12 seamen, 7 marines, killed; 4 officers, 28 seamen, 9 marines, wounded.—Total 62.

Majestic.—3 officers, 33 seamen, 14 marines, killed; 3 officers, 124 seamen, 16 marines, wounded.—Total 193.

Bellerophon.—4 officers, 32 seamen, 13 marines, killed; 5 officers, 126 seamen, 17 marines, wounded.—Total 197.

Leander.—14 seamen wounded.

Total—16 officers, 156 seamen, 46 marines, killed—37 officers, 562 seamen, 78 marines, wounded—Total 895.

Among the Officers killed are, G. B. Westcott, Captain of the Majestic, and Capt. Tandy, of marines belonging to the Vanguard.

Among those wounded are, Sir H. Nelson, Admiral; Alexander J. Ball, Esq. Captain of the Alexander; Sir James Saumarez, Captain of the Orion; and H. D. Darby, Esq. Captain of the Bellerophon.

Five thousand of the enemy were killed and wounded on the whole,

Of the thirteen ships, which composed the French line of battle, two only, it seems, have made their escape, one of which, commanded by Rear-Admiral Willeneuve, is arrived at Malta.

It is said there was a number of troops on board the French fleet, whom it was not thought necessary to land at Alexandria.

The Bellerophon was particularly opposed to L'Orient, which ship had 1000 men on board when she blew up.

When the Mutine cutter left the Admiral, the British fleet was still employed in destroying the French transports, great numbers of which had run on shore.

The Admiral's ship, of 120 guns, commanded by a Corsican, of the name of Casabianca.

It is not the least important consideration to know that General Buonaparte's dispatches have been doubly intercepted. His first dispatch, dated from Alexandria, on the 8th of July, was sent to France by an avise, which was taken by a Turkish vessel, before the French had time to throw the dispatches over board; the second dispatch was taken by Admiral Nelson's cruizers. We have reason to believe that our Government is by this time in complete possession of the further projects of the French in Egypt.

In the evening a general illumination and other rejoicings took place, to testify the honest joy of the public. Of their gratitude they may give a better proof, for a subscription has been opened at Lloyd's for the wounded seamen, and the relatives of the deceased.

FINIS.